



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 21, 2014

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## **Montana State Parks Seeks Public Comment on Draft Strategic Plan**

-Comments accepted through Wednesday, November 19 at 5pm-

(Helena, MT) – Montana State Parks ([stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)) is seeking public comment on a draft Strategic Plan. This plan, Charting a New Tomorrow, establishes a shared direction for Montana State Parks and Recreation programs through the year 2020.

The draft plan was prepared with guidance from the Montana State Parks & Recreation Board to address longstanding resource challenges and propose solutions to moving the park system forward given the available resources.

The plan proposes a number of targets and actions to develop diversified and sustainable funding for the Parks system and statewide recreation programs. It will also seek to foster strategic partnerships and build an engaged constituency to ensure the success of Montana State Parks and outdoor recreation across the state.

Throughout the planning process, the Parks Division conducted internal and external outreach; including a staff survey, evaluation of statewide recreation trends, and a series of 8 community listening sessions around the state which engaged over 117 Montanans, organizations, and partners.

Montana State Parks provides diverse, family-friendly, affordable, and enriching recreational opportunities to more than 2 million park visitors each year. Additionally, the Division supports community recreation through its four grant programs, and is an essential component of Montana's multi-billion dollar tourism and recreation industries. The plan outlines five goals designed to enhance the park system and uphold the Montana State Parks brand promise; providing significant, relevant and accessible parks that preserve and protect our historic, cultural, and recreational resources for the future of Montana and all people.

On October 15, 2014, the Montana State Parks & Recreation Board proposed that the draft strategic plan be made available for a 30-day public comment period.

The draft strategic plan can viewed on the Montana State Parks website, public comment page, direct link here: [http://fwphlncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/board/pn\\_0007.html](http://fwphlncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/board/pn_0007.html)

We invite the public to review the draft plan and provide comments to Montana State Parks by Wednesday, November 19 at 5pm. Comments must be received in writing.

The public is asked to comment online at [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov) – click on ‘submit comments’ on the right hand task bar - or by direct link:

[http://fwphIncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/board/pn\\_0007.html](http://fwphIncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/board/pn_0007.html)

The public can also send comments by mail to: Montana State Parks Draft Strategic Plan, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.

Additionally, Montana State Parks will be hosting a statewide public meeting on Wednesday, October 29. The meeting will be from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the following locations:

- Kalispell – FWP Region 1 - 490 North Meridian Rd
- Missoula – FWP Region 2- 3201 Spurgin Rd
- Bozeman – FWP Region 3 - 1400 South 19th Ave
- Great Falls – FWP Region 4 - 4600 Giant Springs Rd
- Billings – FWP Region 5 - 2300 Lake Elmo Dr
- Glasgow – FWP Region 6 - 54078 US Highway 2 West
- Miles City – FWP Region 7 - 3521 I-94 Business Loop
- Helena – FWP HQ - 1420 E. 6th Ave

For more information about the statewide public meeting contact Maren Murphy at (406) 444-3364.

The public is encouraged to attend the meeting to review and discuss the draft Montana State Parks Strategic Plan.

*Join us in celebrating Montana State Parks 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2014! Visit Montana State Parks ([stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)) and enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, boating and more and discover some of the greatest natural and cultural treasures on earth.*

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[stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov)

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